



ACQUISITION AND  
TECHNOLOGY

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3015 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20301-3015



DEC 29 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: Revision to MIL-STD-2073 Department of Defense (DoD) Standard Practice  
for Military Packaging and New Default Flexible Commercial Packaging Practices

The Department of Defense is making significant strides in increasing the use of commercial goods and services to meet its materiel needs. It is essential that this process continue. One important area that has been insufficiently exploited is the use of commercial packaging techniques and processes. The Department is a major purchaser of high technology manufactured goods and each year ships millions of items around the globe. Government *unique packaging requirements are responsible for significant needless extra costs.* It is the policy of the Department of Defense to use commercial packaging to ship this materiel unless it is documented that commercial packaging cannot provide adequate protection and preservation. MIL-STD-2073 DoD Standard Practice for Military Packaging was rewritten in 1999 to reflect this policy. Additional changes, as addressed in the attachment, have been made to reinforce this policy and to aid in making decisions about the applicability of military packaging.

The new, attached, MIL-STD-2073 language specifies that in making packaging determinations, DoD personnel will select commercial packaging practices unless that packaging is shown to be inadequate to meet the Department's handling and preservation needs. MIL-STD-2073 is to be required by the government only when adequate, cost effective commercial packaging for procured items is not available and the government specifies, *contractually and in advance, of the need to package utilizing military practices.* Commercial packaging practices will always apply to items procured under FAR Part 12 practices. The criteria for determining adequacy of packaging will include: product type, contractually specified logistics requirements of the ultimate military user including expected storage and handling, and economic considerations based on usage patterns. Contractors shall extend appropriate standard commercial product warranties where commercial practices are chosen to meet packaging requirements unless the contractor, at their discretion, decides to adhere to MIL-STD-2073 specifications.

The military components should consider my proposed revisions to MIL-STD-2073 and provide their comments by January 10, 2001. I want to know why these changes should not be adopted. Absent any compelling rationale, I will see to it that they are made effective

immediately. My point of contact for this initiative in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform) is Craig Curtis, (703) 697-6399.



Attachment:  
As stated

**Dave Oliver**

cc:  
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(ACQUISITION REFORM)  
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (LOGISTICS)  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE PROCUREMENT  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE